



YANKEE COURIER

What's coming up?

March

4-5 UTA

4 Change of Command Ceremony, 3 p.m.
17 St. Patrick's Day
20 Spring begins
21/22-26 Hawgsmoke
25 NGA Conference, Banquet, see page 9

April

1-2 UTA

1 Retiree Recognition Night, see page 5
2 Daylight Savings ...
don't be late for drill!
8 FW Easter Eggstravaganza, see page 6
9 Veterans Appreciation Dinner, American Legion, Wethersfield, 655-7064
13 Bradley Family Day Kickoff Breakfast

May

6-7 UTA

13 FW Fishing Derby
14 Mother's Day
19 Armed Forces Day Luncheon (*tentative*)
20 Armed Forces Day
29 Memorial Day
31-4 June ORE

June

3-4 UTA Phase II ORE
14 Flag Day

WING FLIES THROUGH INSPECTION

By 2nd Lt. Jefferson S. Heiland,
Deputy Public Affairs Officer

Members of the 103rd Fighter Wing participated in a Unit Compliance Inspection (UCI) here on base Nov. 17-21. Airmen grabbed the opportunity to prove their abilities and achieved a combined compliance rating of 98 percent.

A UCI is normally required for Air National Guard units every five years to measure their effectiveness and capability to perform their missions. It focuses on work centers' adherence to strict federal and military standards for recordkeeping and documentation.

A team of inspectors from the Air Combat Command Inspector General Headquarters, Langley AFB, Va., evaluated the wing in 614 compliance areas. Many of the inspectors were also involved with the 103rd's Operational Readiness Inspection (ORI) in April, and were particularly impressed with what was described by the team chief, Col. Dave Russell, as great strides in improvement since then.

He described the wing as "truly world class," attributing its success to teamwork, as well as the exceptional efforts of select individuals.

"During this UCI, we noticed a strong sense of pride, teamwork, and total focus on mission execution that directly enhanced your performance on this inspection," said Col. Dave Russell, team chief, Air Combat Command and Inspector General Headquarters.

In scrutinizing each base work section, the inspectors identified eight teams and 46 indi-



Tech. Sgts. Larry J. Ouellette, Dana R. Babcock, and Master Sgt. Steve L. Seaha, aircrew life support, 118th Fighter Squadron, display their IG coins received for superior performance during the UCI. (Photo by 2nd Lt. Jeff Heiland)

viduals as superior performers.

Col. Russell personally recognized several stand-out performers in front of their peers and presented commemorative coins to mark the acknowledgement. Staff Sgt. Christina S. Santana, training assistant and mortuary NCOIC, 103rd Services Squadron, "came up with a really innovative, neat, unique, kind of filing system that actually works and it really impressed my inspectors," he said.

"My boss, who's a general-select, does allow me to give you one of his brand new coins that only he has touched ... so directly from him to you, thanks a lot for your outstanding work, we really do appreciate it," Russell told Santana.

Santana transferred much of the credit to the rest of her team. "I couldn't have done it without their help," she said.

CHIEF COUPLE; PROMOTION MAKES HISTORY

By Staff Sgt.
Carolyn A. Aselton,
Public Affairs NCOIC

With rank comes privilege, right? At least at work it does for the wing's newest chief master sergeant, Tim Shaw, the security forces superin-

tendent, who pinned on his new rank during a promotion ceremony here Nov. 20.

His family joined him, including his wife, Chief Master Sgt. Kris Shaw, the military personnel manager for the Connecticut Air National Guard.

"I'm still the boss," Kris said

with a laugh.

It is the first time the state has seen two chief master sergeants married to each other.

"The girls think it's neater than we do," Kris said of Tim's daughters Samantha and Nicole, who were also at the ceremony.

This funded Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services.

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Commander

Col. John P. Swift III

Public Affairs Officer

Maj. George H. Worrall III

Deputy Public Affairs Officer

2nd Lt. Jefferson S. Heiland

Public Affairs NCOIC

Staff Sgt. Carolyn A. Aselton



COMMANDER'S COLUMN

By Col. Jack Swift

Welcome back! Folks, it gives me great pleasure to write the first commander's column for the revived Yankee Courier. The Courier has been missed greatly by all of our active and retired Flying Yankee family and I, like you, am very glad to have it back!

I'm certain the number one question you all have is, "OK, Colonel, after all the time you've spent at the Bureau, what's the news about the road ahead?" Well here's what I know...

The picture on the road ahead is becoming clearer, but is truly not settled yet. The picture is clearer for several reasons.

First, thanks to Maj. Gen. Martin's actions and insistence we are far more involved and active in shaping that future than we have ever been in recent years. He is using the talents of his senior officers at both the state and wing level to engage on several fronts, including working with our legislators, the Bureau and the MAJCOMs, to ensure we leave no stone unturned in working our future mission issues.

Second, the leadership at NGB clearly understands and is actively working a follow-on

flying mission for the Flying Yankees.

Third, budget submission deadlines coming up in the next two months will drive some key decisions that will have to clearly lay out the details of the plan for Bradley and the CTANG. This plan will then have to become public record. So, the picture is coming into focus and your state leadership is working it very hard.

I'm sure you also want to know what you can do to help. The answer there is simple. Across the wing we all need to stay very focused on the missions that we are executing in our jobs today, tomorrow and in the coming weeks. The absolute very best recommendation we can gain for any future mission is to excel at the jobs we are doing right now. From day-to-day training and customer service, to bigger things like UCI and deployment preparations, we need to be first class. We need to be safe about our operations, frugal with our resources, and innovative with our solutions to areas we see as problems. We need to continue to build on the compliance improvements we have made in the last two years.

The good news is that you are already very well equipped to maintain that excellence which is the Flying Yankee tradition. Your number one tool to draw upon in this endeavor is



teamwork! I've seen this wing do great things when we are all focused on the same goal, such as an ORI or overseas tasking. We need to continue that same spirit in every task we take on and not allow ourselves to withdraw into our own areas and allow our sense of teamwork to get trumped by other less productive attitudes. These are truly uncertain times, but they are not anything that should be difficult for a well-disciplined team with members all pulling in the same direction.

I thank you all for your teamwork and dedication that has gotten us through a couple of challenging years. I look forward to serving you as your wing commander as we continue to shape our future though our day-to-day excellence.

GOVERNOR ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR CONNECTICUT'S VETERANS HALL OF FAME

Gov. M. Jodi Rell is accepting nominations to the Connecticut Veterans Hall of Fame. Ten state veterans are inducted each year at an annual ceremony in November.

The Hall of Fame was created last year to recognize the post-military achievements of generations of outstanding veterans from the state, living or deceased, and to spotlight their contributions to their community, including education, public safety, politics, recreation, and other public service.

Veterans who served in all military conflicts will be considered.

Nomination packets must be received by June 30. For eligibility requirements and other information, visit www.ct.gov/governorrell or www.ct.gov/ or call the Dept. of VA at 860-721-5939

UNIT PUBLIC AFFAIRS REPRESENTATIVES

Flying Yankee Spotlight — *Who's in the HUD?* Staff Sgt. Joe Cabrera, 103rd OG

By Tech. Sgt.

Roger Krasusky,

**103rd Operations Group
UPAR**

Staff Sgt. Joe Cabrera, or Joe Cab, as he is commonly known within the Operations Group, works full time for the 103rd Fighter Wing. Since his enlistment in June 2000, Staff Sgt. Cabrera has deployed twice to the Iraqi theater. In 1999, he went in support of Operation Southern Watch and in 2003 for Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"After college, I will seek a commission on base," said Staff Sgt. Cabrera.

Originally from Paterson, N.J., and schooled in Bronx, N.Y., he enlisted to fulfill a sense of pride.

"I was looking for a career change and felt it important to serve our country," he said.

As an Information Management Specialist, this Guardsman provides weekly reports to account for unit mandays.

"Providing accurate and precise information is one of many critical components. Important mission-essential decisions are made based on the information provided," he said.

His efforts while deployed in support of OIF were recognized by the Commander of



USCENTAF who awarded Staff Sgt. Cabrera his first Achievement Medal. His award reads, "Airman Cabrera's efforts significantly streamlined a complicated and lengthy connection process for satellite communications in combat conditions."

"What impresses me the most about Staff Sgt. Cabrera is his ability to apply his knowledge

of computers and organizational skills," said his supervisor, Master Sgt. Carolyn Owen.

Off-duty, Staff Sgt. Cabrera enjoys spending time with his wife and five children. He is also involved with organizations like the American Legion, Air Force Association, National Rifle Association and Air National Guard NCO Academy Graduate Association.

"I would like to see better benefits and pay for military members and Veterans," he said, stressing the importance of membership as it helps build the numbers so politicians get a better picture of the importance of these types of concerns.

DO YOU HAVE AN IDEA FOR THE YANKEE COURIER?

CONTACT YOUR UNIT PUBLIC AFFAIRS REPRESENTATIVE

With over a thousand members in the Connecticut Air National Guard, we know there are just as many good things happening both on and off-base, and we need you to let us know about them.

Do you have a star performer? Got some great training going on or trips coming up? Are any of your Airmen doing fantastic things in school or their community? Any newlyweds or baby Flying Yankees? Be sure to tell your Unit Public Affairs Representative all about what's going on and we'll run it here.

This fall, a handful of Flying Yankees joined some of their Army counterparts at a Unit Public Affairs Representatives training class at Camp Rell.

There, and through work with the public affairs office, these men and women have learned the basics of storytelling, and now they are ready to tell yours, so let them know all the great things you and your units are doing!

Deadline for submissions is close of business the drill before the month of publication, so if you want to see something in next drill's Courier, we need it the drill before.

We, in the Public Affairs Office, are excited about the return of the Yankee Courier and look forward to working with our UPARs and all of you.

Staff Sgt. Carolyn A. Aselton

2nd Lt. Jefferson Heiland

Public Affairs Office x 2506

UPAR CONTACT LIST

Senior Airman Erin McNamara erin.mcnamara@ctbrad.ang.af.mil	Comm x2460
Senior Airman Michael Diaz michael.diaz@ctbrad.ang.af.mil	Comm x2580
2nd Lt. Sherry Janarelli sherry.janarelli@ctbrad.ang.af.mil	Maintenance x2419
Senior Master Sgt. Richard Belford Richard.belford@ctbrad.ang.af.mil	Mission Support x2320
Tech. Sgt. Roger Krasusky roger.krasusky@ctbrad.ang.af.mil	Operations x 2514
Staff Sgt. Jessica Roy Jessica.roy@ctbrad.ang.af.mil	Security Forces x2312
Senior Airman Joshua Mead joshua.mead@ctbrad.ang.af.mil	Services x 2340

Personal Achievement

Professional Military Education, Schools, and Other Courses

with honors:

2nd Lt. Douglas Scheirey **103 MSF**
Basic Personnel Officer Course
Honor Graduate

2nd Lt. D. Elliotte Draegor, **103 MSF**
Basic Personnel Officer Course
Honor Graduate

Tech. Sgt. James Reynolds **103 SFS**
Security Forces Apprentice Course
Distinguished Graduate

Airman 1st Class Levi R. Scheider **103 MS**
Basic Military Training
Honor Graduate
Aircraft Electrical and Environmental Systems Apprentice Course, *Distinguished Graduate*

Airman 1st Class Michael Malanowski **103 CES**
Basic Military Training
Honor Graduate
Pavement Maintenance and Construction Equipment Operator Course, *Distinguished Graduate*

Airman 1st Class Ronald Szymanski **103 MS**
Maintenance Management Analysis Apprentice Course
AETC Commander's Award

also graduating:

Lt. Col. Robert Marconi **103 FW**
Reserve Forces Judge Advocate Course

Tech. Sgt. Aaron Hann **103 MSF**
ANG Recruiter School

Maj. Jeffrey Knickerbocker **103 FW**
Chief Master Sergeant's Executive Seminar

Tech. Sgt. Paul Bergagna **103 CES**
Academy of Military Science

Capt. Brian Boeding **118 OSF**
ACC FAC JFC Course

Tech. Sgt. Mark Penney **103 MSF**
Personnel Craftsman Course (Satellite)

Chief Master Sgt. Daniel Jones **103 FW**
Sergeant Executive Course

Staff Sgt. Frankie Rodriguez **103 SFS**
Security Forces Craftsman Course

Chief Master Sgt. Christopher Johnstone **103 FW**
Explosive Safety Orientation Course

Senior Airman John Custy **103 SFS**
Airman Leadership School

Senior Master Sgt. Peter Santerre **103 LRS**
Logistics Plans Craftsman Course

Senior Airman Ryan Weiss **103 FW**
Personnel Apprentice Course

Master Sgt. Alicia McGrath **103 FW**
Explosive Safety Orientation Course

Airman First Class Hasan Snipes **103 ACS**
Basic Military Training,
Communications Computer Systems Operations Specialist

Master Sgt. Ronald Jones **103 MDG**
Sorts Data Handler Course

Airman First Class Keith Clinton **103 ACS**
Basic Military Training,
Fire Protection Apprentice Course

Airman 1st Class Lusa Joven **103 MS**
Munitions Systems Apprentice Course

The Connecticut Air National Guard



8th Annual Retiree Recognition Celebration

Place: 103FW, Bldg 24, Dining Facility

Date: Saturday, April 1, 2006

Time: 1630 - Cocktails & Hors d'oeuvres
1800 - Awards Presentation
1845-2030 - Cocktails & Hor d'oeuvres

Attire: Business Casual

Cost: \$15 Officers, \$10 E-7 & above,
\$10 guests, \$5 E-6 and below



RSVP by ~~March 1, 2006:~~ end of March drill

LTC Tom Powers, 860-292-2321 (thomas.powers@ctbrad.ang.af.mil)

MSG Tony Martucci, 860-292-2332 (toni.martucci@ctbrad.ang.af.mil)

MSG Rick Sherman, 860-292-2451 (richard.sherman@ctbrad.ang.af.mil)

MSG Teresa Lavender, 860-292-2480 (teresa.lavender@ctbrad.ang.af.mil)

SSG Jose Cabrera, 860-292-2378 (jose.cabrera@ctbrad.ang.af.mil)

103rd Fighter Wing Easter Eggstravaganza

Saturday, April 8, 2006
11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Building 24 Dining Hall

Pre-registration is Required
\$1.00 Registration Per Family

Call Mrs. Donna Rivera to Register
at 860-292-2730 or 800-992-6056
or email
donna.rivera.ctr@ctbrad.ang.af.mil



Come and see the Easter Bunny
and have your picture taken
together.

GAMES & PRIZES

Easter Goodie Bag for All Kids

Hot Dogs

Pot luck Dessert and Salad
Dishes

(Contact Mrs. Rivera if you are
able to provide a dish.)



12th Annual NGACT Conference and 2nd Annual NGACT Awards Banquet

Saturday, March 25, 2006
Conference Registration & Continental Breakfast: 7:45 a.m.
Awards Banquet: 6 p.m.

Marriott Hartford-Rocky Hill
100 Capital Boulevard, Rocky Hill, CT

**Conference Keynote Speaker
To Be Announced**

**Awards Banquet Keynote Speaker
To Be Announced**

NGACT Conference & Awards Banquet Registration

Name: _____ Rank: _____ Unit: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Daytime Phone: _____ Email: _____

Conference Registration: \$20 (\$25 at the door) _____

Banquet Registration: \$40
 (Petite Filet Mignon & Baked Stuffed Shrimp) _____

NGACT Annual Dues: \$6 _____

NGACT Lifetime Dues: \$60 _____

PLANETS Annual Dues: \$9 _____

NGALS Annual Dues: Based on Rank _____

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

Rooms are available at the Marriott for Friday and Saturday evenings at \$89 per night. Room reservation code will be sent upon receipt of conference registration.

Make checks payable to "NGACT" and send to NGACT Conference, 2600 Elm St., Hartford, CT 06105-3795
 Email questions about the Conference and Awards Banquet to: ngact2005@yahoo.com

NGACT Working for You

Transformation With a Twist

By Chief Master Sgt. Robert Hall
Command Chief Master Sergeant

Before I can talk about transformation, I must first share what I read on the Air Force Portal Web site and consider to be the definition of transformation. It reads, "A process by which the military achieves and maintains advantage through changes in Operational Concepts, Organizations, and/or Technologies that significantly improve its war-fighting capabilities or ability to meet the demands of a changing security environment."

Since I took over as the Wing Command Chief in February 2004, I had the unique opportunity to watch this wing as it prepared to undergo its first Operational Readiness Inspection since 1995. Many from the wing had just returned from the war eight months earlier and immediately upon their return had to begin preparations.

From my viewpoint, I sensed that some people felt they were "good to go" since they did such a superb job in the war.

Ultimately, they came to realize that was not the case.

Overall, the wing did not fare well on the inspection and would have to do it all over again. This is where I feel the transformation began.

When the initial shock was over, I witnessed an organization that was determined to roll up the sleeves and get down to business. Total team was exactly that. The areas that had the need for support got it. These folks took it personally and were going to show the IG team what this wing was really all about. Perseverance, determination and most importantly, PRIDE, had the IG gasping for air when it was here for the retake.

When the inspection was done, there was yet but another hurdle to get over, the UCI. Unwavering, the men and women of this wing were not going to let the IG come in here and see anything but the best they had to offer.

I can say without hesitation that every single member of the 103rd Fighter Wing did an outstanding job. Each and every one of you can be very proud of your achievement. You've set the bar.

Our goal for the future is to maintain the bar. I know I am speaking for all the leadership of the wing when I say thank you for your commitment to excellence and dedication to duty.

Chaplain's Corner

By (Capt.) Chaplain David Larsen

At the end of the day, or a life, what really matters?

If we can answer that question well, we have a better chance to live our life with fewer mistakes or surprises of our own making. We do not want to reach the top of the ladder only to realize it is leaning against the wrong wall.

Most of us think we know what matters to us. The answer is in our heads and hearts. But sometimes the *inside* answer is not visible to people on the *outside*. If someone simply observed how you spent your money and how you spent your time and how you spoke or acted toward that special someone, would their observations match your values?

Ultimate values have *lasting* passion. It is *sometimes* the passion that gets us up in the morning. But not every morning. Because sometimes the juices are not flowing! (I chose school, but studying was not usually fun. I chose children, not diapers, tears and sleep deprivation — but they came as a package.) Living our ultimate values helps us to remain faithful even when life is hard. Ultimate values deserve our trust and give us hope.

Knowing and living our ultimate values helps to free us from the chains of fickle feeling that come and go. (Those same feelings that are so often proved superficial by the test of time.) And we do not have to raise doubts and question our heart every time we are stretched, stressed or depressed.

I have learned from folks older than me that if we choose a good thing initially for the right reason and stick with it through thick and thin — in the end, we we'll look back with that deep satisfaction we associate with joy.

Oh, but let us not forget *the fun factor!* Faithful people can lose their joy in the routine of life's treadmill. Doing the WHAT but forgetting the WHY. I hope we can cultivate the discipline of remembering *why* we do what we do! (*Why* I believed with all my heart I wanted to spend the rest of my life with her. *Why* I believed owning a home would be a privilege and blessing — in spite of all of the attendant responsibilities.)

Passions are different than values because passions change over time, and ultimate values do not. **Live your values, but not your passions.** Because passion is powerful. If you lose sight of passion, it may find you in a destructive way. (Why do you think even some reasonable men run away with the waitress or buy a fast car at mid-life? They usually regret it when they come to their senses.) Passion is powerful in a moment, but value wins the prize over time.

For me, the most important things are the timeless things, the eternal things, the things that hold value in this life and far beyond this life. I do not believe that because I am a chaplain. I am a chaplain because I believe that. My favorite memories wrap around those times when my passions match my values. Then I am single-minded, and my time, money and effort all go in the same place. That is when I have my cake and eat it, too.

What is worth getting up for? What ultimately matters in life? If life matters, then these questions deserve our best answer.

103rd Student Flight—Welcoming Our Future Leaders!

By 2nd Lt. Darlene O'Connor, Student Flight Officer-In-Charge

While we have all heard of the 103rd Student Flight, some of you may not be aware of who's involved with it and how it works. The intent of this, and upcoming, articles is to get people better acquainted with the processes surrounding the Student Flight, to recognize the volunteers behind the scenes, and to introduce you to the future leaders of the Connecticut Air National Guard – the members of the 103rd Student Flight.

At any given point, there are approximately 60 people assigned to the 103rd Student Flight. Within the Student Flight, there are three categories of members:

—“Prior service” awaiting their 3-skill level AFSC either through waiver or formal technical school. (These members report directly to their gaining unit.)

—“Non-prior service that choose not to attend drills.” They are assigned to the Student Flight until they graduate from technical school but do not attend drills while awaiting any schools, and

—“Non-prior service that choose to attend drills.” They are assigned to the 103rd Student Flight and attend drills while in Connecticut until they have graduated from Basic Military Training and technical school. Once graduated, they are transferred to their gaining unit within the 103rd Fighter Wing.

For those in the last category, a typical Unit Training Assembly includes the following: arrive at the base by 7:30 a.m. (to help limit the traffic backup at the front gate), weigh in, attend commander's call, complete a lot of paperwork, and continue to in-process.

In addition to the administrative functions the new members accomplish, Master Sgt. Hinson, a former Training Instructor, helps them to appreciate the importance of marching and all the commands that go along with it! Many times, even the post-BMT graduates will step up to the plate and help mentor the newest members. As you can imagine, upon arrival to BMT, they quickly realize the valuable lessons

they have been taught before arrival.

While preparing them for BMT is one objective, we also want to expose them to some key units around the 103rd Fighter Wing. To date, such areas have included, but not limited to, security forces, maintenance, operations, communications, the AGE shop, weapons loading, engine testing, and the fire house, just to name a few. Going forward, this process will continue to grow and encompass even more of the base (feel free to volunteer in advance if your unit would like to help!)

While all of these items mentioned above are providing some benefits to our Student Flight members, it is not enough. We need to do more and we realize this.

There is a strong and growing team working behind the scenes to support the Student Flight. They are some of the most positive, motivating, enthusiastic people and without them, this program would not be successful, so a very special “thank you” goes out to: Tech. Sgt. Shannon Turner; Master Sgts. Phil Vasington, Robin Hinson, Sabrina Gilfurt and Angel Huertas, our most recent volunteer. These members take great pride in what they do and volunteer because they understand the importance and the need to support our newest members of the unit.

First impressions can last a lifetime. If you want to help us make THE BEST first impression to our future leaders, call us, because WE WANT YOU!!! And, in the meantime, if you see someone in the Student Flight (they're pretty easy to pick out), introduce yourself, say “hi”, and welcome them to our team.





deployment snapshots

from January trips

(photos courtesy of 103rd Communications Flight)